



CONSTRUCTION BULLETIN

**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

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Subject: Changes to Lab Validation Policy

Applicability: INFORMATION

1. Purpose: This Construction Bulletin (CB) is distributed to provide temporary guidance on the new lab validation policies until Engineering Regulation 1110-1-261 can be reissued. The policy changes provided in the CB are the result of consensus reached at the Lab Validation Meeting held with MSCs on 31 January 2001. These changes affect only the material testing requirements.

2. Changes:

a. The district Commander is authorized to approve one-time, project specific exception for lab validation for non-critical projects. Non-critical projects are those projects that do not involve life safety issues for users or the general public. This exception shall not be allowed on high visibility projects where a material failure would affect the reputation of the Corps or have serious economic consequences.

b. MSC personnel having a minimum of 10 years materials testing experience (experience to be evaluated by the Material Testing Center (MTC)) will be given the opportunity to be trained as auditors and inspectors by the MTC. The exact requirements and procedures will be determined by the MTC. The MSCs will bear the cost of the training plus the associated inspection equipment costs. Coordination and funding of all inspections will be processed through the MTC. The MTC will retain approval authority of all MSC auditors/inspectors and the auditing and inspection process.

c. Validation period may be extended to three (3) years if the lab has satisfactorily completed the validation process, was previously validated, and has an acceptable history of providing services.

d. Each district and MSC shall establish and provide MTC a POC list for all lab validation issues. The MSC shall also provide the MTC with an annual projection of services required of the MTC for planning and scheduling its workload.

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